

# WILLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Trent Avenue, Willington, Derbyshire. DE65 6DN

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Headteacher: Mr S Tague

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Dear Parents,

We have decided to hold weekly spelling tests from Year 1 to Year 6, for us to monitor and make improvements to spelling.

Learning to spell well is important if we want our children to become fluent and confident writers. Children who have a secure bank of knowledge about how to spell key high frequency words are much more likely to make adventurous vocabulary choices when extending their writing skills.

It is important that we support children in understanding that learning to spell well, can be more challenging for some than others and that some people need to use different methods to help them remember spellings. It is crucial that we give children confidence to know that it is okay to be unsure about a spelling while writing but to know, that later, they will need to check a spelling.

It is very important that children revisit key spellings on a regular basis through writing regularly and playing spelling games, so that they can embed knowledge in their long-term memory.

Spelling words are currently assigned to the children weekly through 'Spelling Shed' with each class being involved in spelling lessons during the week. We encourage the children to use the Spelling Shed games at home as part of their homework- aiming for at least three short sessions a week. Please ask your child's teacher for details to access Spelling Shed games.

We are aware however, that some families prefer to use paper-based methods, so we will be providing your child with a Home Spelling Book. Your child will need to bring their Home Spelling Book to school, so that it can be updated with words matched to those we have set weekly on Spelling Shed.

In consideration of different timetables, your child's class teacher will let you know when your child will have their weekly spelling test and we will also be celebrating spelling successes in school through rewards and a hall display.

Many thanks for your continuing support,



Mrs E. Miller



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## Parent Information- Spelling Strategies, Methods and Games.

Children with a good memories are often able to successfully use well known strategies, such as LOOK at a word, SAY the word, COVER and WRITE the word, before then CHECKING in order to learn spellings.

Other children will need to have visual methods reinforced with auditory and physical strategies.

### Auditory Strategies

- Stressing the unstressed vowels so you can hear where and what they are. For example.... d e f l n l t E ly
- Making up a mnemonic. For example.....'I *definitely* have x2 eyes (l's) and x2 ears(E's)'.  
At school, the children often learn the word 'because' this way, through the mnemonic...  
'big elephants can always understand small elephants'
- Saying each part of the word as it is spelt.  
For example....def-i-ni-tely
- Saying each letter out loud with rhythm or through song.
  - Some of our children will use this strategy with the word 'beautiful' through the rhyme song....
  - 'Mrs B, Mrs E, Mrs A, U, T,
  - Mrs I, Mrs F, U, L.'

### Physical Strategies

As in learning to dance or play an instrument, knowledge and skills become embedded and automatically recalled when children practice physically to write words with the correct spelling.

This is the strategy behind writing the word out in lots of different ways such as in rainbow-coloured letters or building triangle shapes with letters of a word.



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For example...

H

HO

HOU

HOUS

HOUSE

It can be beneficial to revisit methods used in the infant classes, such as 'Air Write', disco dance letter write or writing in a large format using different materials.

Children can also write on someone's back, cut out and collage letters or simply use scrabble tiles or magnetic letters, and physically build spelling words.

## Knowledge of Spelling Rules

It is of course important that children also learn spelling rules and patterns. Each week, we will look at these together in class and learn a selection of words that fit a rule or have a similar spelling pattern.

## Understanding Meaning and the Expansion of Vocabulary.

As children are learning spellings, it is very important to support the children in understanding meaning. Therefore, when we teach and test vocabulary and spellings, we will ensure we put spelling words in meaningful sentences so that the children can understand how we use the words in context.

.....  
*Below are some of the methods we currently use in school to support spelling.*

### Memory Challenge

In this game you will play against a partner.

Copy 5 – 10 of your spellings onto a whiteboard.

Allow your partner 30 seconds to study your spellings.

After 30 seconds, secretly rub out one of the spellings, partner identify which word is missing?

If they guess it right then they receive a point. If they guess incorrectly then you get a point.

Take turns of writing down the spellings.

### Match-Up

Write each of your words on two different index cards. Turn all the cards face down and mix them up. Lay out your cards in rows (like Concentration) and flip over two cards at a time. Read each card aloud to see if they match. Keep them if they match or flip over and try again!



## Alphabetical Order




Place your spelling words in order alphabetically.

If you have more than one word starting with the same letter then you need to look at the next letter.

'apple' comes before 'cucumber' because a comes before c.

'apple' comes after 'alphabet' because the 2nd letter p comes after the second letter l

## Roll and Spell

	Say your word. 
	<u>Rainbow</u> write your word.
	<u>Write your word 3 times.</u> 1 2 3
	<u>Write your word</u> big.
	<u>Write your word</u> small.
	<u>Write your word</u> in a pattern.

